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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Letter dated 23 November 1992 from the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation addressed to the Secretary-General

The proposal currently under consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session to convene in 1995 a world summit for social development has given rise to very keen interest within the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

At its recently held 254th meeting, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office conducted a very extensive debate on the question. During the debate, the representatives of the numerous Governments as well as the employers' and workers' groups that make up the Governing Body strongly emphasized their wish that ILO, which has an eminently social mandate, should play a central role in the preparation, holding and follow-up of the summit and instructed me to inform you in this regard as speedily as possible. The decision adopted by the Governing Body reads as follows:

> "The Governing Body instructs the Director-General to invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring to the attention of the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, that the tripartite constituents of the International Labour Organisation consider that this organization, given its specific mandate in the social field, should be called upon to play a central role in the preparation, the holding and the follow-up of the world summit for social development."

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

I should therefore be grateful if you would bring this decision by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to the attention of the General Assembly at its present session.

Furthermore, although this is not explicitly stated in its formal decision, the Governing Body also instructed me to impress upon you the need to ensure that the world summit for social development is not held in June 1995. As you know, the International Labour Conference meets every year in June and, in the view of the Governing Body, it would be extremely detrimental to the central role that it wishes ILO to play at the summit, if the two events took place simultaneously. In this connection, I should point out to you that the members of the Governing Body regretted very deeply that the decision had been taken to hold the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in June 1993 - namely, at the same time as the session of the International Labour Conference - in spite of the very great interest on the part of ILO in the questions to be discussed at the World Conference, and they very firmly hoped that such overlapping would not recur during the world summit.

(Signed) Michel HANSENNE